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ABSTRACT

Designed to help high school teachers introduce their students to both economics and good literature, this booklet contains information about an assortment of books that illustrate basic economic concepts. The information provided for each book includes the concept it illustrates, its author, publication data, a synopsis, suggestions for teaching techniques, a list of related activities, and any available audiovisual materials. (RL)

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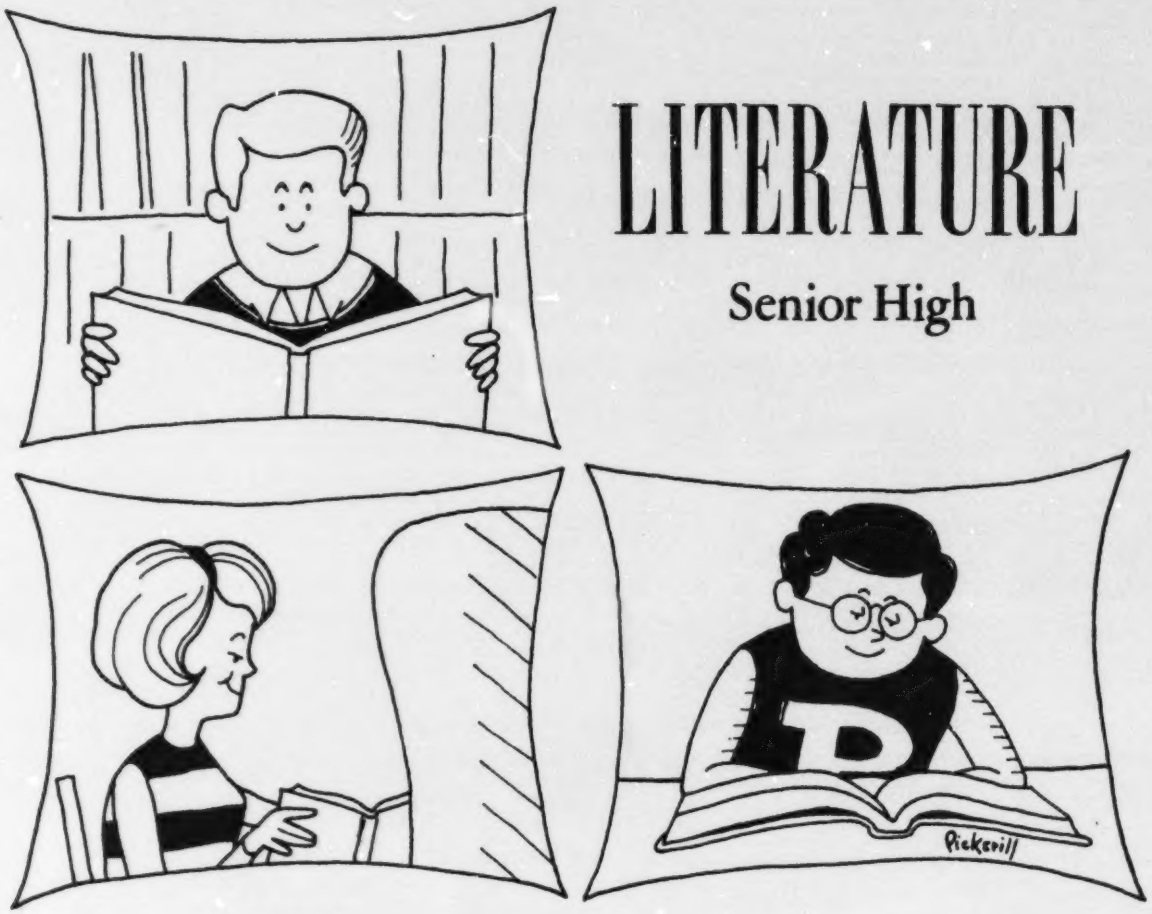
Economic Education thru...



LITERATURE

Senior High

Kansas State Department of Education
Kansas State Education Building
120 East 10th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612

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INTRODUCTION

The high school teacher of literature has the opportunity of developing his students' interests in many ways, but the ways that strike home at the students' consciousness most directly are those that touch upon their own present needs.

In pointing out the economic aspects of a wide assortment of stories from American, contemporary, and world literature, I have hoped that I could help high school teachers elicit student interest by introducing an extra dimension to their teaching that would involve some of their students' primary concerns.

I am not suggesting that the stories I have chosen are the only ones that could be used in this way. Many others are available in a particular classroom that would do as well. I did try to choose texts, however, that are readily available in schools and libraries, making resource material easily accessible for busy teachers and students.

Perhaps some may think that economics concepts are of little concern to the literature teacher, but, in my opinion, the classroom should be the forum wherein any of the students' major interests can be developed and thus enriched.

Clare M. Buffon

Contemporary Literature

Economic Concept: Wants

Up the Down Staircase by Bel Kaufman. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1964.

Up the Down Staircase by Bel Kaufman tells about a first-year English teacher's experiences in an inner city school. She soon learned that her students' wants for material things often took precedence over their wants for educational opportunities because the former were in the immediate present and the latter in the hard-to-realize future.

In her vignette about Jose Rodriguez, the author shows the effect that clothing makes in helping establish one's self identity. Jose had often been in trouble with the law and, prior to his experience in Miss Barrett's English class, had held himself in low esteem. One day, the teacher asked Jose to play the part of the judge, not a criminal, in a classroom dramatization. On the day of the play, he managed to acquire a black graduation gown and mortar board and, with the outward garb of a judge, assumed the inner identity of the man he portrayed. This brief one-day episode transformed Jose. His earlier shy, self-deprecating demeanor changed, and he became instead an appreciative student who had found new depths within himself.

Other students had similar effects gained from their observations of and subsequent emulation of their teacher. Some girls gained confidence when they copied her hair style. Some students absorbed enough of her love of poetry to encourage them to read or write verse on their own. Each developed in his own way in a classroom where personal growth was not a catchword expression but a result of mutual love and respect.

Activities:

1. Find a short play that can be presented in the classroom where the clothes worn by the actors will make considerable difference in characterization. Some possibilities might be a courtroom drama, a western saloon melodrama, or even a dramatization of a scene from *Up the Down Staircase*. Try to give the students an opportunity to play roles unlike those they usually identify with. The class cut-up could play the hero, an immature person play an adult's role, etc. By dressing for and rehearsing for such parts, they might discover resources within themselves hitherto unrealized.
2. Discuss how people's wants for clothing vary in widely separated parts of the country and at differing income levels. How are they similar? How are they different? How much do television, magazines, and movies affect these similarities and differences?
3. Let each student pick one living personality whom he would like to emulate. In a short essay, ask him to describe the person: his physical characteristics, his modes of attire, his favorite places to live, and his way of making a living. In the essay ask him to tell what he personally would need in order to assume this person's life style which he admires.

Contemporary Literature

Economic Concept: Wants

Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee by Dee Brown. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1970.

The wants of the American Indian have seldom been described as well as in Dee Brown's American Indian history, *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee.* He starts with the arrival of Columbus on this continent when the explorer was greeted with kindness and gifts up to the present time when the Indian has been forced from his land into reservations over a trail filled with broken promises and blood.

The wonderful photographs of Indian chiefs collected by Mr. Brown show the enormous dignity of these men enhanced by their distinctive raiment of feathers, bone, leather, or cloth. As in most societies, its leaders wear clothing that denotes their high office and leadership.

Perhaps one could demonstrate that some wants for certain kinds of clothing stem from a need to present a certain kind of image that seems fitting for a particular station in life or at least one's self image of his own role in life. Thus, the bus driver wears his uniform, the waitress her outfit, the society matron her high fashion; and the Indian is still searching for his role in a white-dominated society, uncertain whether he may continue to think and dress as his ancestors did or whether he and his children must adapt themselves to the world into which they have been thrust.

Contemporary Literature

Now, Barrabas by William E. Jovanovich. Harper & Row, New York, 1957.

Economic Concept: Consumerism

A good book doesn't merely happen. It must be conceived by the writer, revised by the editor, accepted by the publisher, and marketed to the reader. These steps in a book's evolution are described by William Jovanovich in *Now, Barrabas.*

By their judgments, publishers such as Mr. Jovanovich govern the kinds of new books that will be available to the public each year. The author therefore emphasizes the necessity for freedom by men like him to select books that may present lasting ideas on the human condition. Although censorship is not new, it remains an ever present danger to freedom of thought and expression.

When a new book does reach the market, it may appear in one or more of many categories: trade books, textbooks, or reference books, for example. The consumer, furthermore, may often choose between a hardbound or a paperback edition, not always issued under the same title.

In whatever form they may be purchased, books inevitably become one of the chief molders of public opinion. Their publishers must therefore be allowed to present various views on issues for the enlightenment of society.

Activities:

1. Ask the students to bring in any paperback books they have finished. Have a book swapping period where the students may barter with one another; and each will, hopefully, have at least one new book to read as a result.
2. Compare the prices of various books now offered for sale: hardbacks, paperbacks, reference books, textbooks, etc. Where is each kind offered for sale? What marketing techniques - magazine ads, book club offerings, door-to-door selling - are used primarily by each?
3. Have a class project on the history of censorship. Find out about books that have been banned in the past such as Hitler's book burning orders, the banning of books in Boston, the St. Louis public square book burning, etc. Have any books been banned recently? Use *The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* for help in finding magazine articles for reference. Also select a committee to interview librarians on this topic; it should report back later to the class on its findings.

Additional literature: Consumerism

The Middle Man by Paul R. Reynolds. William Morrow & Co., Inc., New York, 1971.

In order to have their books reach the buying public, most authors rely on the services of a literary agent. One of the foremost of these is Paul R. Reynolds, who describes his work as entrepreneur between author and publisher in *The Middle Man.*

In dealing with either emotionally-involved authors or financially-motivated publishers, Mr. Reynolds discovered that the success or failure of their relationship depended mainly on his ability to understand people and their needs. When he had completed a deal, he then knew that a new work would appear, presenting its freshly-stated ideas to its readers.

Anyone who purchases books now and then either in a bookstore or from a book club will find that Mr. Reynold's book reveals many interesting facts and oddities about the transactions that have brought a new book to the market place.

Contemporary Literature

Economic Concept: Production

Gift from the Sun by Margaret Cooper. Broadbury Press, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1969.

While attempting to supply his energy needs, man has learned to use the substances of the earth in their natural state and also in various other forms made by combining or taking apart of substances. Thus, although industry's energy requirements have increased at a rapid rate, man's ingenuity has kept pace in providing energy output. Only very recently have doubts arisen that perhaps the demands for energy would outdistance the sources of supply.

In *Gift from the Sun* by Margaret Cooper, the history of the supply of and the demand for energy is traced from man's earliest times on earth. Then, the author projects from this historical background the optimistic view that man will continue to find energy to meet his needs either from the sun, from the atom, or from deep within the earth. In addition, she believes that we will learn to make better uses of the energy sources already in use such as coal, oil, and gas. If such energy resources can be utilized, then production can continue to expand without the fear that it will outdistance its necessary component, energy.

Activities:

1. Establish committees who will investigate the uses of energy in various industries such as agriculture, steel making, mining, textile making, automobile manufacturing, road building, or trucking. They should try to find out the kinds of energy employed, from simple manual energy to very sophisticated fuels such as those from atomic reactors. Finally, they should try to find out whether these manufacturers feel that their present energy sources will be sufficient for their future needs. If an industry uses electrical energy, for example, does it fear power outages or shortages later on? Each committee should report its findings to the class orally.
2. Ask the students to contribute to a visual display showing energy users. Simple exhibits could include an alarm clock, a toy cannon, a model car, a model airplane, a spring toy, a spinning top, a kite, or the like.
3. Ask a representative of the local newspaper to tell the class about its use of energy including any modernization plans it may have undergone or may be contemplating such as the use of computerized tapes, telephotos, etc.

Contemporary Literature

Economic Concept: Production

The Conquest of Energy by George Russell Harrison. William Morrow & Co., New York, 1968.

The Conquest of Energy by George Russell Harrison tries to answer some of the specific questions often asked about energy and its uses including perhaps the most commonly asked question: Will there be enough energy to supply the future needs of home and industry?

First, however, Mr. Harrison explains about some of the sources of power: the heat of the sun, the motion of water, or the energy stored in the atom. He shows how these various types of energy have been utilized to produce the products and services that a sophisticated society demands.

Since energy demands are expected to increase threefold by the year 2000, how then will the United States find so much additional power? Probably the breeder reactor of nuclear energy will be the foremost supplier, but Mr. Marshall suggests some other possibilities, too. He tells of experimental work in lowering the use of electrical current through cooling its conductors to the point where their atoms cease motion; thus a small voltage would produce a great deal of electrical current. Such ideas are largely in their experimental stages now, but Mr. Marshall looks optimistically toward a future where the ingenuity of man will have helped provide for the power needs of producers.

Contemporary Literature

Airport by Arthur Hailey. Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, New York, 1968.

Economic Concept: Specialization

In any large business, many people trained in a variety of specialized skills work cooperatively in the interests of the business. In Arthur Hailey's carefully researched novel, *Airport,* the inner operations of the airline industry are woven into the story so thoroughly that, in reading the book, the reader also learns a great deal about many of the skills such an industry requires.

The airport manager makes many of the top level decisions about the operations of an airport, but he depends upon many other people, too. The men in air traffic control have the nerve-racking duty of supervising take-offs and landings. The dispatchers, ticket sellers, baggage handlers, and flight crews all have special assignments upon which the smooth flow of traffic depends.

On the outside, the parking lot attendants try to handle the needs of the incoming and outgoing passengers. In addition, food service requirements must be met in good weather and bad, specialized dietary needs as well as ordinary ones.

In effect, *Airport,* gives a clear picture of many specialized workers all making their contributions toward the overall needs of the business by which they are employed.

Activities:

1. Ask each member of the class to choose and read a book of either fiction or non-fiction that thoroughly describes an occupation in which he has an interest. Some possible choices of occupations: animal trainer, park ranger, rancher, race car mechanic, railroader, mathematician, astronomer, oceanographer, fashion designer, or photographer. Reading a biography about someone who has achieved success in his field would be particularly appropriate.
2. In a written book report, ask the students to describe the occupations they have read about and then tell why they think they might or might not wish to learn the skills required for this occupation.
3. Develop an occupational list from the book reports plus others suggested by the class. In class discussion, share ideas about these occupations insofar as job interest, chances for advancement, opportunities for travel, etc. are concerned.

Additional literature: Specialization

The High and the Mighty by Ernest K. Gann. William Sloane Assoc., Inc., New York, 1953.

The High and the Mighty by Ernest K. Gann tells of an adventure aboard an aircraft bound for San Francisco. Like *Airport,* this book tells about some of the back-up measures taken by the specialized people on the ground at the airport to help ensure the safety of each plane.

On the other hand, *The High and the Mighty* dramatizes through an account of an onboard emergency the role of the commander of the airplane in judging what is the best course to follow in protecting the lives of the passengers and crew. Throughout the entire episode, the reader learns a great deal about the functions of many specialized personnel working assiduously for the safe transportation of airline passengers.

Contemporary Literature

Time Is Short and the Water Rises
by John Walsh. E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.,
New York, 1967

Economic Concept: Scarcity

To understand the concept of scarcity, it is necessary to understand that the world's resources are limited. One man who understood this principle and acted upon it was John Walsh. When Surinam built a great dam threatening ten thousand animals with death, he determined to try to rescue as many as possible of these least of the earth's resources.

In *Time Is Short and the Water Rises* John Walsh tells of his recruitment of native Bushnegroes and the buying and building of dugouts for searching the islands and trees still emerging from the rising lake behind the dam. The weather was no help because the high humidity of the rain forest had somewhat the debilitating effect of a Turkish bath.

Sometimes the animals resisted their captors, not realizing that remaining where they were meant certain drowning. Mr. Walsh asked for and received donations of nylon stockings from all over the world that helped restrain the animals as they were being transported to safety but did not cause sores and burns as ordinary ropes would have done.

John Walsh seems to understand the scarcity of our resources very well, and we can learn a lesson in his diligence and his unwillingness to let waste occur on a massive scale. Whether we mean waste of animal, mineral, or vegetable resources, the lesson to be learned is the same.

Activities:

1. Ask members of the class to write to various wildlife associations for information about endangered species of animals: which ones are endangered, their habitats, and the reasons for their decline in population.
2. After the information has been received, ask for oral reports about several of the species. Make a wall display of their pictures taken from leaflets and magazines. Discuss whether the problems in these animals' fight for survival are few or varied.
3. Ask a local zoo representative to talk to the class and show slides of some of the endangered animals. If there is no nearby zoo, perhaps one farther away would send slides for class viewing accompanied by a study guide for discussion.

Additional literature: Scarcity

Man: The Next 30 Years
by Henry Still. Hawthorn Books, Inc.,
New York, 1968.

In *Man: The Next 30 Years,* Henry Still predicts some ideas about the state of the world in the year 2000. There will be many more people to feed, clothe and house. To help in the feeding process, the farmer will benefit from last minute information from weather satellites, helping him decide on the time of his work. Energy will still come from fossil fuels but also from fuel cells, magneto-hydrodynamics, and nuclear fusion, helping to supply the skyrocketing demands of the huge population.

As the populations of the cities continue to increase, the resources, knowledge, and trained personnel of the country will need to combine in order to procure for the city dweller a place where he may work in a relaxed atmosphere of safety, comfort, and cultural enrichment. The year 2000 is less than thirty years away; so those people concerned with development of new programs for alleviating scarcity need to press on quickly toward a more efficient tomorrow.

Contemporary Literature

The Making of the President 1960
by Theodore H. White. Atheneum
Publishers, New York, 1961.

Economic Concept: Decision Making

An American presidential election demonstrates the effects of decision making at many different levels. The candidate himself must decide which issues he will support and how his ideas can most effectively reach potential supporters. To reach these decisions, he receives suggestions from his campaign managers, his party workers, and from special interest groups.

Keeping this basic format in mind, the candidate makes a heroic effort to persuade a majority of the electorate of the worth of his program and of his own personal worthiness as well. To marshal this effort, he uses personal appearances, media messages, and press handouts either of his own making or of those of his public relations staff.

When election day arrives, however, each individual voter must make his own decision, and on his decision the candidate awaits judgment, a judgment that decides from whom the power of the U.S. government will stem during a four year period.

Theodore H. White's book, *The Making of the President 1960,* follows the Kennedy and Nixon candidacies from their inception until election day, showing with a trained observer's clarity the effects, either favorable or unfavorable, of the strategies chosen by both sides? Then, in our singularly American way, the people go to the polls and the ultimate decision is made.

Activities:

1. Ask the class to suggest controversial questions concerning the school or the community. List them on the board. Then, let the class vote on the questions they would most like to use for debate topics.
2. As far as possible, let the students choose their own topics for debate and also choose whether they will support the positive or negative side. Then they should investigate in newspapers and magazines and by consulting authorities to try to gather evidence that will persuade student voters to decide that their chosen side of the question has the most merit.
3. After each debate, allow the other students to make the decision as to which side presented the strongest, most persuasive arguments.

Additional literature: Decision making

The Making of the President 1968
by Theodore H. White. Atheneum
Publishers, New York, 1969.

The decision making of the voting public during the 1968 elections was influenced by outside events as much as by the candidates themselves. Descriptions of these events as well as intimate studies of the candidates fill the pages of Theodore H. White's *The Making of the President 1968.*

The candidates travelled from state to state seeking support for themselves and the rest of their ticket, but the shadows of the Viet Nam War always loomed over other issues; furthermore, the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy added additional darkness and despair to the country's decision makers.

Finally, however, election day arrived, and once again American voters went to the polls, voting for an orderly but massive turnabout in the power structure of the government.

American Literature

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck. The Viking Press, New York, 1939.

Economic Concept: Wants

The Grapes of Wrath describes the migration of the dust bowl farmers from Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Kansas to the Promised Land of California. Driven by their wants for housing, food, clothing and jobs, they pulled up stakes from their arid farms, loaded up their weather-beaten cars, and headed for the West.

John Steinbeck unflinchingly pictures the difficulties encountered by these emigrants. They suffered harassment and deprivation along the way, but their wants were so pressing that they persevered, meeting nightly in roadside camps where they exchanged news, stories about back home, and ideas about the best ways to cross the desert that lay ahead.

Other migrations have been initiated for different wants: religious freedom, land hunger, gold fever, etc. But the people of *The Grapes of Wrath* wanted the bare necessities of life that their dried-out farms could no longer provide.

Activities:

1. Establish study groups that will report on the migrations of various eras in America: the gold strike days in the Yukon, the Oregon Trail days, the separatist movements from the early colonies, the silver mining days of Virginia City, or perhaps even the mobile home wanderings of today. What were the economic wants in each case? How did these wants affect their life styles on the way and upon arrival at their destinations?
2. Discuss possible migrations of the future. Will the wants caused by over-population cause groups of people to try to settle at the poles, on the deserts, or on the moon or planets?
3. Since present migration is toward the cities, discuss the peoples' wants that influence them to leave the less-populated areas and risk the higher crime rates, over-crowding, transportation problems, and unclean air of the great urban centers. What wants influence an eighteen-year-old youth from a comfortable farm home to leave that home for a dingy, small apartment in the city? Do you think he will want to continue to live in the city for the rest of his life? This discussion could lead into imaginative writing by individual students.

Additional literature: Wants

"A Start in Life" by Ruth Suckow. *Reading Modern Short Stories.* Scott, Foresman and Co., Chicago, 1955.

"A Start in Life" by Ruth Suckow tells about a young girl's move from the city to the country where she takes her first job as a mother's helper. Her expectations are great as she imagines how she will spend her dollar and a half a week; so she leaves home feeling terribly important.

Gradually, however, Daisy begins to pine for her own family circle, feeling an outsider in her new situation. Her wants for the material things that her salary could buy diminish as much as her homesickness increases. Finally, when the farm family goes on a day's shopping excursion while Daisy is left behind with her household tasks, she realizes at last that she must face her situation all alone as she struggles for a start in life.

Filmstrip: "The American Poor: A Self-Portrait."
Part I - 12 min., Part II - 12 min., color/sound.
Guidance Associates, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570.
These filmstrips present two case studies of poverty in Patten, Maine and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in which the persons interviewed talk to the viewers of their fears, hardships, and hopes.

American Literature

Economic Concept: Consumerism

Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House by Eric Hodgins. Simon and Schuster, New York, 1946.

The Mr. Blandings of *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House* by Eric [illegible]s gives a funny yet practical lesson to his readers about the principle called *caveat emp[illegible]* let the buyer beware. He uses his own experience in home buying as an example.

In the first place, he and his wife fell in love with the product, a house, they had found, thus dulling their reasoning ability considerably. Secondly, he failed to ask some very pertinent questions before he completed the purchase about the exact amount of land that went with the houe and, even more importantly, the house's own potential for restoration. He learned too late that it had none. He had, therefore, bought a house that needed to be torn down, leading to a highly educational but woefully expensive dealings with architects, builders, and landscapers who led him down the garden path toward his dream house.

Mr. Blandings' experience contains a lesson for every would-be buyer. He needs to think beyond the glittering promise of the product he desires into the realities of price, credit costs, and quality. Otherwise, he may learn his own consumer's lessons after the purchase rather than before.

Activities:

1. Since one of the most confusing problems for many would-be buyers is that of the true interest rate, make a comparison of the actual interest that would be required on a $1,000 loan under different kinds of loan payments: the payments to loan companies, the payments to banks, or the payments to credit unions. Discuss the needs for all types of these facilities under varying circumstances.
2. Divide the class into small groups. Let each group pick one product such as an electrical appliance that they would like to shop for. Then, tell each member of the group to try individually to find the place where he thinks he can make the best deal, keeping in mind standards of quality. The possibilities for comparison shopping could include mail-order catalogs, discount houses, department stores, shopping centers, etc. Put all the results together and see what discrepancies exist in the merchandise for the same type of produce at dissimilar prices.
3. In the section below, Thoreau demonstrates his budget, including his income and his expenses. Discuss the need for a personal budget, the items that should be included, etc. Also, discuss the value of family budgets wherein each member contributes his suggestions about the usage of the total family income.

Additional literature: Consumerism

Walden by Henry David Thoreau. Dodd, Mead & Co. New York, 1948.

Henry David Thoreau was an unconventional man. In *Walden* he describes his philosophy of contemplative individualism that he developed during his stay alone in the house he had built for himself on the shore of Walden Pond.

Thoreau's house cost him $28.12½, and his expenses for food during an eight month's period were $8.74. He felt guilty about spending so much. In order to subsist on such minimum amounts, he had to adjust his thinking about the kinds of things that he considered essential and those that seemed to be merely unnecessary frills.

To a certain extent each of us needs to make similar judgments, and perhaps a reading of Thoreau's *Walden* would give us new perspective about the so-called necessities of life.

Filmstrip: "Consumer Studies: The Price of Credit."
1 filmstrip - 9 min., sound/color.
Guidance Associates, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570.
This filmstrip focuses on one major kind of credit: installment buying. The basic steps involved in this procedure serve to illustrate generally other methods of credit buying.

American Literature

Economic Concept: Production

"The Old Neighborhood" by Theodore Dreiser. *The American Tradition in Literature, Volume II.* W. W. Norton & Co., Inc., New York, 1956.

Theodore Dreiser's short story, "The Old Neighborhood," describes a period of great industrial change in America because of the consuming drive and inventive genius of men like the one in the story. He has sacrificed his wife, family, and friends on the altar of success, and now returns to his former surroundings where he inwardly muses about the reasons for it all.

These musings reveal a man of towering ambition, dissatisfied with less than the juiciest fruits that his inventive and productive genius can bring forth. So he has deserted his wife and has gone off to build an industry that would bring him riches and success. But after his cravings have been satisfied, he is assailed by feelings of gloom and contrition.

This man is, in fact, the type of man who spurred on the Industrial Revolution in this country, and who helped establish the United States as one of the most productive countries in the world. In devoting his energies to expansion and industrialization, however, he may have sometimes suffered some of the same sense of personal loss that Dreiser describes so well in "The Old Neighborhood."

Activities:

1. Let each student read a biography or encyclopedia account about a business tycoon such as Ford, Firestone, Goodyear, Kettering, Rockefeller, or Carnegie. Then, ask him to compare or contrast this real person with the fictionalized man in "The Old Neighborhood."
2. Divide the class into small groups. Let each group choose one large industry for further study. They should then write a letter of request for the company's annual or quarterly report and also look for pictures or actual examples of some of the products this company manufactures for display to the class.
3. Each person in the group should prepare to tell the class about one aspect of his company: its marketing areas, its potential for growth; the worth of its stock in number of investors and value of its shares, the kinds of merchandise it produces, etc. Then the class might wish to discuss the merits of ownership of shares of one company's stock over another's.

Additional literature: Production

"Some National Stupidities" by Mark Twain. *The Complete Essays of Mark Twain.* Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, 1963.

Mark Twain in his essay, "Some National Stupidities," comments on the interchange of products between Europe and America. He states that as a rule "we develop a borrowed European idea forward and that Europe develops a borrowed American idea backward." He gives many examples of American-made machines that Europe was slow in incorporating into its life style: the elevator, the typewriter, the overshoe, and the fountain pen.

Since this essay was written many years ago, it might be interesting and profitable for a class to discuss some of the products that are widely imported and exported now with the purpose of deciding whether America is still developing Europe's ideas forward while Europe continues to lag behind in product development.

Filmstrip: "The Industrial Revolution in America."
Part I - 14 min., Pt. II - 12 min., color/sound.
Guidance Associates, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570
The Industrial Revolution, although accompanied by greed and corruption, made possible the unparalleled prosperity we know in this country today, and most Americans still enjoy the fruits of this revolution.

American Literature

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin by Benjamin Franklin. Univ. of Calif. Press, Berkeley, 1949.

Economic Concept: Specialization

In the opening words of his will, Benjamin Franklin introduced himself as "I, Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia, printer." Although he had served his country in many positions of great responsibility, he thought of himself primarily as a skilled artisan in the craft of printing.

Franklin tells in his autobiography of the arrangements made by his father and his brother for him to learn his trade. At the age of twelve, he signed the papers of indenture which bound him to serve as an apprentice printer to his brother until the age of twenty-one. Franklin loved to read the printed papges of books himself; so he spent his spare time improving his knowledge of the world and his proficiency in language by reading books borrowed from every possible source.

Later, he learned even more about his trade in Philadelphia and in London, enabling him finally to return to Philadelphia using know-how gained in London to improve some of the forms used by a foremost Philadelphia printer. Eventually, Franklin's skill in the printing business enabled him to find a partner who would furnish the capital against Franklin's workmanship that launched him into a business of his own. Franklin's diligence at his trade had carried him from bound boy to journeyman printer to part-owner, and he was so successful in this specialized work that he was able to retire from active business when he was only forty-two years of age.

Activities:

1. Discuss with the class the kinds of jobs they think would bring them chances for advancement. Some possible job categories for discussion would be newspaper reporting, school teaching, nursing, auto repairing, or truck driving. Ask them whether they know of specific examples of people who have advanced in these lines of work.
2. Discuss the former practice of indenture. What were the guarantees sometimes included in the indenture contract? Were there any minimum wage laws in early America? How did being indentured differ from apprenticeship in learning a trade?
3. Ask each student to write an essay telling of a job that he might like to learn and suggesting some of the ways that he thinks he might be able to improve his abilities on his own. Later, some of these could be read to the class.

Additional literature: Specialization

"The Shoemakers" by John Greenleaf Whittier. *The Complete Poetical Works of John Greenleaf Whittier.* Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1892.

In these days of mass production, hand-craftsmanship is just beginning to come into its own again. John Greenleaf Whittier's poem, "The Shoemakers," explains step by step the loving attention that is given in forming a handmade shoe.

He tells of the shoe's beginnings, too, in that their materials have their origins all over the world: Carolina, Florence, England, the Alps, etc. Then, the leathercraft specialist skillfully forms the kind of shoe needed for each special purpose such as walking, dancing, or working.

Many poets, Whittier included, learned the shoemakers' trade in their youth. Thus this poem appreciatively bestows its honors on these artisans of "The Gentle Craft of Leather."

Filmstrip: "Job Attitudes: A Job That Goes Someplace."
2 lp records - sound/color
Guidance Associates, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570
This filmstrip shows the students how important their own job attitudes are when they wish to achieve advancement.

American Literature

The Sea Around Us by Rachel Carson. Oxford University Press, New York, 1950.

Economic Concept: Scarcity

An astronaut looking down from his space capsule probably realizes better than any of us that we inhabit a water world where the land merely protrudes through its surface. Rachel Carson helps us understand this, however, and also how important this water world is as a source of needed food, minerals, and fresh water.

The continental shelves that are the most shallow parts of the ocean and therefore the most accessible are also the most abundant. They provide huge supplies of fish, seaweeds for foods and drugs, and oil reserves for needed energy demands. Oceanauts rather than astronauts explore these areas from ocean-going diving bells of differing designs in order to find ways to utilize even more fully these richly productive areas.

The ocean's temperature changes can affect production of food, too. Since the Arctic Ocean has warmed considerably, Iceland and Greenland have found fish prevalent nearby that previously had not been found in those waters. The supplies of food produced on the land have been generously augmented from the ocean's bounty. Further research is being carried on by countries all over the world that realize the potential of the ocean in relieving the pressure of usage on the land's supplies.

Activities:

1. Divide the class into groups that will study areas in which scarcity has become a problem. Some possibilities are the rivers, the air, endangered species of animals, the energy "crisis," the trash problem, etc. Some questions for their investigations are as follows: 1. Does a problem really exist? 2. How widespread is it? 3. What has already been done about it? 4. What solutions have been proposed but not yet carried out? 5. What are the recommendations of each study group?
2. Have each student make a study of his family's conservation habits for a specified number of days. He could record the returning of deposit bottles, the setting aside of aluminum cans for recycling, the cleaning up of litter from yards, the turning off of unused light bulbs, television sets, and radios, the turning down of thermostats, etc. The idea, of course, would be to demonstrate that conservation of scarce materials is a personal matter.
3. Suggest that each student write a short poem or paragraph in which he would describe the joys of good earth and clean air in his own way as Jesse Stuart has done in his way in the poem below.

Additional literature: Scarcity

"Land Where the Honey-Colored Wind is Fair" by Jesse Stuart. *A Jesse Stuart Reader.* McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1963.

Jesse Stuart has a poet's special sensitivity to the surroundings, and he shares these perceptions with us in "Land Where the Honey-Colored Wind is Fair." He contrasts the "choking smoke in cities" to the "leaf-laundered wind" where the "lonesome water's wordless, soothing songs" and the "love language of the wild birds' cries" can be heard.

In sharing his appreciation of clean air, fresh water, and wild life, Jesse Stuart can give incentive to those who may previously have been indifferent to their increasing scarcity? later, they may even pitch in and help preserve the qualities of life that the poet cherishes.

Filmstrip: "Man's Natural Environment: Crisis Through Abuse."
Two lp records, color/sound.
Guidance Associates, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570.
This filmstrip shows ways in which man has abused his environment and ways he can learn from his past errors.

American Literature

The Egg and I by Betty MacDonald.
J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1945.

Economic Concept: Decision making

In *The Egg and I*, Betty MacDonald tells about the efforts that she and her husband made to run a successful chicken ranch and of the many decisions that became necessary during their years in the business.

Neither Betty nor Bob, her husband, had ever run a farm of any kind before, but Bob optimistically tried to reassure Betty that they could solve all the problems of chicken ranching in the Olympic Mountains. One early decision set the tone for many later ones: the business usually took precedence over the home when improvements were necessary, repairs were done, or even food was bought. The chickens received the new roof over their heads, the freshly white-washed interiors, and fresh buttermilk and greens for their diets while the farm house leaked, had no inside water, and featured a balky stove that refused to work for about three months at a time.

Both Betty and Bob worked unsparingly to keep their business operative, keeping accurate records and eliminating practices that turned out to be unprofitable. One day, however, Bob made his final decision about the ranch: he sold it. Not that he was discouraged about chicken ranching. Unbeknown to Betty he had gone to Seattle and had bought a chicken ranch on a nearby island where they would be able to apply their hard-won knowledge about decision making in chicken farming based on their business experiences.

Activities:

1. Have a class discussion about certain decisions that the students must make. Do they make solitary decisions or do they get advice, solicited or unsolicited, from others? Possibilities for discussion are choosing electives, deciding on family or individual vacations, making career preparations, or spending habits.
2. Assign a one page paper using as a title: "The Best (or Worst) Decision I Ever Made." Ask the students to be explicit about the influences leading to their making this choice and the circumstances surrounding them at the time.
3. After they have received these papers back from you, ask them to write on the opposite side an imaginary article in which they will pretend that they did not make the decision they have written about, but quite the opposite one. Ask them to try to tell in detail how they imagine the sequence of events would have been as they pursued the opposite course.

Additional literature: Decision making

The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand.
Bobbs-Merrill, Inc., Indianapolis, 1943.

Before any major building can be built, the architect and his client must make many decisions about it. In *The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand, she describes some of the head-to-head struggles of an architect, Howard Roard, and his clients as he tried to enlist their support in erecting the kinds of buildings he had envisioned.

By his stubborn belief in his own sense of rightness, Roard alienated many of those around him. He stuck, however, to his own principles of design, and the buildings that he was finally allowed to construct became pacesetters that pointed the way to a new era in architecture reflecting the changing needs of society.

In most businesses, executive decisions must be thrashed out after presentations of various schools of thought, sometimes like Roard's suggestions for change as opposed to others' proposals for retaining the status quo; finally, the decisions arrived at may eventually affect the lives of all who participate in the affairs of the business.

Filmstrip: "Personal Commitment: Where Do You Stand?
Part I - 13 min., Part II - 12 min., sound/color.
Guidance Associates, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570.
In this filmstrip, six young people voice their opinions about commitment: the meaning of the term, the difference between commitment and involvement, and the manner in which commitment decisions are made.

World Literature

Economic Concept: Wants

"The Overcoat" by Nikolai Gogol. *Six Russian Novels.* Anchor Books, Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N. Y., 1963.

Perhaps no other author in all of literature has portrayed so piteously a man's wants for one single item, an overcoat. By observing this man's penuriousness in other ways in order to save toward his one goal, one can understand better the great world-wide force behind the idea of wants.

Perhaps some people needn't sacrifice for their wants as Akaky Akakyevitch had to do. He decided, for example, to do without candles in the evening, using the landlady's candle instead whenever he needed its light in the evening. He would walk more lightly on his feet than usual, sparing the soles of his shoes for longer wear. He would wear his linen longer between washings and go hungry in the evenings, thus saving a few kopeks here and a few there.

By this very exaggeration of the sacrifices one may engage in for a very special want, Gogol dramatizes and clarifies the concept of wanting and its effect on the human spirit. A great driving force is created, the energy that sends customers into the market place to seek fulfillment.

Activities:

1. Decide in class upon one kind of merchandise that a high school student frequently wants: a radio, hi-fi, tape recorder, or motorcycle for example. Then, ask the class to find as many advertisements as possible for the kind of merchandise they have chosen. Make a display of these ads on a class bulletin board.
2. Have a class discussion of the ads in the display, comparing and contrasting their selling techniques. How do they approach their problem of inducing people to want these items, influencing them to become prospective buyers?
3. Ask each student to write a paper describing one almost unattainable thing he would like to have. How could he begin a program of obtaining this dream item, and what are the reasons why the dream seems totally unrealistic? Would sacrifices such as Akaky Akakyevitch's in "The Overcoat" ever be worth making in order to obtain some luxury item?

Additional literature: Wants

"The Silver Box" by John Galsworthy. *The Galsworthy Reader.* Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1967.

John Galsworthy's play, "The Silver Box," describes two young men, each of whom wants something enough to steal it. The play describes the events leading to the thefts, the thefts themselves, and the robbery trial of one of the men that came later.

One of the thieves is the young master of a wealthy family whereas the other is the husband of one of the same family's servants. Yet each is very much alike in his willfulness; each is a heavy drinker and a profligate spender.

The difference in their fates lies in the outcome of the trial, one receiving punishment for his self-serving ways and the other going scot free. Meanwhile, the innocent woman in the play, the servant, loses her means of support because of her husband's actions.

World Literature

"Miracles for Sale" by Tewfik Al-Hakim. *Modern Arabic Short Stories.* Oxford University Press, London, 1967.

Economic Concept: Consumerism

Miracles are unusual commodities for the market place, but in "Miracles for Sale" by Tewfik Al-Hakim, a priest decides that his miracles have cost the church considerable expense.

The priest has been cajoled into visiting a nearby village in order to give his blessing to a dying woman. Miraculously, the woman has recovered just after he has finished. This success has encouraged others to invite the priest's blessings, and each time he has again seemingly performed a miracle.

Meanwhile, however, some hard bargaining has been going on in the priest's village. His brother priests and superiors, having been told that he has been kidnapped, have paid five hundred pounds of the church funds as ransom for him. And, since they have always held their fellow priest in great esteem, they have been happy to pay such a high price.

The priest, however, knowing he has been duped into thinking he has performed miracles, can only marvel at the masterful trickery of those who have thought out and carried out the entire money making caper.

Activities:

1. In order to become a knowledgeable buyer of fairly-priced merchandise, a potential consumer should apprise himself of some of the pitfalls of consumerism. Perhaps a police officer from the bunco squad could be asked to speak to the class about some of the illegal practices he hears about each day when customers voice their complaints after they have been duped.
2. Another possible guest speaker who could apprise the class of good shopping practices would be a representative of the United States Food and Drug Administration, or U.S.D.A. Such a person usually can show exhibits of deceptive packaging or contaminated foods, for the purpose of making comparisons that will help the students become more adept at spending their shopping dollars wisely.
3. Many books have been written about hoaxes of various kinds, such as the art forgeries described by Clifford Irving in *Hoax* or his own personal accounts of his sale of his faked biography of Howard Hughes. Because these books give insight into the warped mentality of the seller of tainted merchandise, they would give a few students who might wish to do extra credit reading and reporting an opportunity to share their findings in these books with the class. In all of these discussions, however, it should be emphasized that practices like these are the exceptions rather than the rule in consumer relationships.

Additional literature: Consumerism

"The Clay Dish" by Robert Blackburn. *Canadian Short Stories,* Oxford University Press, Toronto, 1952.

Raymond Weller had come to a point in his life where he seemed to have lost his sense of identity. Throughout most of his life, he had been engaged in selling; but he had never had any part in the craftsmanship of making the products he had sold.

In "The Clay Dish" by Robert Blackburn, Raymond's confused state of mind becomes apparent early in the story. He finally decides that he must find some example of his own hand work, remembering the adage: "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Eventually, Raymond returns to a former teacher for whom he had made a clay dish, signing it like any craftsman with his initials as a hallmark on the bottom. Thus, Raymond searched his past in the hope of finding meaning in his future by understanding the craftsmanship that must precede the merchandising of a product.

World Literature

Economic Concept: Production

"The Roll of Canvas" by BenjaminTommuz. *A Whole Loaf: Stories from Israel.* The Vanguard Press, Inc., New York, 1957.

A roll of canvas given to him by a British sergeant at the end of World War II gave Pesach Katz of Tel-Aviv a marvelous idea: the canvas would be the raw material for a factory manufacturing peacetime furniture like deckchairs. He would acquire a carpenter as his partner and, using Pesach's business knowledge, they would begin production.

The factory never became a reality. As a gesture of protest against the British Government's White Paper on Palestine, which Pesach Katz considered to be a betrayal of his people, he returned the roll of canvas, thus stripping himself of the opportunity of using the canvas in his manufacturing scheme.

"The Roll of Canvas" not only demonstrates some principles of production: the need for raw materials, skilled workers, and business office personnel, but also it tells of the struggles of the Jewish people to establish a permanent home in Israel, free of British domination. While Pesach Katz gave up what he thought to be his chance to make a fortune from the canvas, many in the Jewish underground were giving up their lives in the Zionist cause.

Activities:

1. Invite a representative of a nearby manufacturing plant to visit the classroom. Tell him the students would be particularly interested in seeing his unassembled product: the separate parts of a shoe before they are put together; the wood or plastic, springs, padding, and upholstering fabric that comprise a chair; the rubber and belting of a tire, for example.
2. Ask this representative to explain not only the kinds of products used but also the kinds of workmanship required in producing a finished product. Also, the students should learn how a person acquires the skills necessary for these kinds of workmanship. Does he attend a vocational-technical school, become an apprentice, obtain training under company auspices, or whatever?
3. Ask each student to imagine himself as part of the production of a particular thing. Would he choose to be an administrator, an office worker, a craftsman, a trucker, or what? What are his reasons for his choice? If he has reservations or doubts, be sure that he also feels free to voice them. In a small class it might be preferable to have a written assignment so that every student would have the opportunity of organizing his ideas and of sharing them with his teacher.

World Literature

Economic Concept: Production

"The Magic Shoes" by Victor Saparin. *Russian Science Fiction.* New York University Press, New York, 1964.

It would seem that almost any mother of a small, active boy would appreciate the gift to him of a pair of shoes that would never wear out. Antonina Ignatievna, however, became so weary of the incredulity of her friends when she tried to explain the "magic" shoes that she put them away for awhile, telling Petya, her son, to resume wearing his old, highly-destructible ones.

The old shoes wore out so rapidly that Petya and his mother had to retrieve the "magic" shoes from his closet. In the meantime their soles had grown thicker than before. Antonina Ignatievna asked herself: "Could there really be such a thing in the world as shoes that grow?"

In the world of science fiction, nothing is impossible. Victor Saparin in "The Magic Shoes" envisions a manufacturing process for shoes using living plants with self restoring soles "designed for adults who walk a lot or for children who run a lot." The plants are grown in large vats, then cut by automatic stamping machines from the artificial hides. And like mushrooms, they never stop growing, and they never wear out. And Petya, to Antonina Ignatievna's delight, continues wearing his marvelous shoes to this day.

World Literature

"The Patrol" by Stanislaw Lem. *Other Worlds, Other Seas.* Random House, New York, 1970.

Economic Concept: Specialization

Even though a person may be engaged in very specialized work requiring individual training, he is usually dependent on the work of others in making his work successful. A space pilot is such a person. His work requires countless hours of training for long, lonely hours in the spacecraft, but the spacecraft's successful voyage is also the product of the minds and labors of many other individuals.

Space pilot Pirks had been sent on a long mission into a so-called clean area where two spaceships had previously disappeared. Now he was following a little white light that seemed sometimes to run away from his rocketship and at other times to chase it. Nearly coming to disaster in his pursuit of the light, Pirks finally realized that the light couldn't really exist at all. Then he turned on his emergency transmitter announcing his return to his base.

Many experts put their heads together, studying the rocketship's equipment as they tried to account for the white light. Finally, they announced their findings as the Leduc-Harper effect and Nuggelheimer's atactic-catatonic-clonic syndrome. It was Pirk's reasoned response, however, in an unreasonable situation that focused attention on the problem and saved him and other specialists in rocketship piloting from death in the skies.

Activities:

1. Comrade Pirk's life was endangered by job monotony. Discuss some jobs other than those of spacemen that pose similar problems.
2. Divide the class into small groups. Let each group choose a certain country such as Japan, Sweden, England, the United States, etc. which it will then study insofar as that country's efforts to overcome job monotony are concerned. Possible industries in these countries which could be investigated could be the automotive, textile, and electronics-related industries. Each group should then report on its findings to the class as a whole.
3. Ask each student to write a description of what he believes would be an ideal job including its working conditions, rate of pay, fringe benefits, location, opportunities for advancement, and hours on the job. Encourage him to be as imaginative as possible, since the imaginative ideas of today sometimes become the realities of tomorrow.

World Literature

Economic Concept: Specialization

"The Maxwell Equations" by Anatoly Dnieprov. *Russian Science Fiction.* New York University Press, New York, 1964.

Professor Rauch, a provincial physicist, had reached a point in calculating the Maxwell equations concerning the behavior of electromagnetic waves. Now he needed the services of a computer. Answering an ad in the local paper, he took his work to Krafstudt and Company and received a strict, precise solution the very next day.

Upon examining the handwritten solution, Professor Rauch realized that the work had not been done by a computer but by a mathematical specialist of extraordinary powers. Fascinated by his pleasure in this solution, he decided to send in another even more difficult problem. It, too, was promptly solved but by a different mathematical genius.

Determined to find the source of such genius, Dr. Rauch visited Kraftudt and Company. He learned that Krafstudt, a former war criminal, had perfected a means "of commercializing human thought, willpower and emotions by means of electromagnetic fields." By his understanding of the principles involved, Dr. Rauch cleverly managed to preserve his own willpower while receiving stimulation in his mathematical abilities.

Eventually, Krafstudt and Company was exposed and its captive mathematicians freed. But so great is the demand for mathematical specialists that Dr. Rauch suspected that they were soon back in business again, working for the Defense Ministry.

World Literature

"The Old Ranch" by Ricardo Guiraldes. *Spanish Stories and Tales.* Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1954.

Economic Concept: Scarcity

One concept basic to economic thought is that of scarcity, a scarcity caused by men's wants exceeding their supply of limited resources. One natural resource that is often taken for granted, for example, is water. Although it is one of our most plentiful resources, it is still less plentiful than man would like to have it.

In "The Old Ranch" by Ricardo Guiraldes, the author describes the anguish caused by even a temporary shortage of water. The land is parched and bare, the cattle are lean and thirsty, and the people are desperate. In his agonized state, Don Rufino takes the family's little Virgin down from the wall and ties her to a post in the barn, threatening to leave her there until it has rained. Miraculously, he has hardly finished the roping when a great cloud appears on the horizon, presaging the life-giving rain.

The author's vivid descriptions contrasting the state of life before and after the rain's beneficence help one appreciate the importance of water to all of us. Only by learning to appreciate and use scarce resources such as water wisely can we have sufficient quantities for our present and future needs.

Activities:

1. One of the principal needs of this country is to find new sources of energy. Since many suggestions have been made in magazine articles and in books, divide the class into study committees which would investigate undeveloped or only partially developed sources of energy such as the energy stored in cereal grains, geo-thermal energy from the earth's core, electro-magnetic-field energy, or nuclear fission energy. Try to find out the promises of and the problems from these kinds of energy.
2. Let each committee present a panel discussion about a particular type of energy source to the class. Have a question and answer session between the class and the panel after the discussion.
3. Almost all research for developmental purposes requires money. Have a thoughtful class discussion of the pros and cons of having research into energy problems financed by the United Nations, the federal government, private industry, university departmental funds, state agencies, etc.

World Literature

Economic Concept: Scarcity

"The First Furrow" By Milovan Glisich. *Jugo-Slav Stories.* Duffield and Co., New York, 1921.

"The First Furrow" by Milovan Glisich tells about a family whose wants outdistanced their means of fulfilling them, allowing them to feel the pinch of scarcity in an intensely personal way. Their plight had been caused by the loss of their husband and father during the second war, and the loss of his strength was an almost irreparable misfortune to his widow and three small children.

Left alone, Miona neither remarried nor moved away. With some help from her relatives with the heaviest work, she hoed, weeded, and harvested the grain. Even when her oldest son became strong enough to help, she resolutely sent him away to school for the education that her husband had planned for him.

Eventually, Miona's youngest son was able one day to take the oxen out and plow his first furrow. Her gratitude was boundless. She could look forward at last to a time when her family would once again be provided for without dependence on others. They had lost a husband and father, but now his son could take the heavy burden of the family's heaviest work upon his young shoulders.

World Literature

"A Whole Loaf" by Shmuel Yosef Agnon. *A Whole Loaf: Stories from Israel.* The Vanguard Press, New York, 1957.

Economic Concept: Decision making

"A Whole Loaf" by Shmuel Yosef Agnon tells the story of a man who seemed unable to make the slightest decision. Whether it was a matter of procuring food for a meal, sending for his wife and children, or simply mailing a letter, this man procrastinated continuously because he couldn't make up his mind on a course of action.

If businesses were run this way, no one would prosper. The duty of the decision makers in business is to gather all the helpful data available to them and then to make the necessary decisions that will move the company ahead. People like the man in "A Whole Loaf," incapable of making decisions, could cause slowdowns or actual stoppages in businesses that depend on having someone at the helm who guides or directs their courses.

The man described in "A Whole Loaf" may seem to have an exaggerated case of indecisiveness, but this very exaggeration by the author of not only the failure to decide but also the consequences of that failure helps to teach a very fine lesson to the reader on the necessity for decision making.

Activities:

1. Make a demonstration of as many kinds, shapes and sizes of loaves of bread as possible. These might be acquired from a commercial baker or from contributions from the students. The students could each be asked to bring a loaf of bread to class which would be returned to them after class was over.
2. Make a list on the board of some of the reasons offered by the class for deciding to purchase a particular loaf of bread. Some of the influential factors might br brand name, price, size of loaf, purpose for which the bread is intended, kinds of flour, calorie count, etc. Since many of these factors enter into each decision for buying a single loaf of bread, try to list the reasons in order of their probable importance to the buyer.
3. How can the seller of bread, being aware of the buyer's uncertainties, help him choose the kind of bread that will suit him best, hoping that he will then purchase that same bread again and again? What makes the most effective advertising: the wrapper, a TV spot, a radio blurb, a billboard? Discuss the relative importance of each medium in influencing decision making.

Additional literature: Decision making

"The Lotus-Eater" by W. Somerset Maugham. *Great Short Stories.* Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1950.

Everyone at some time in his life has probably longed for the peacefulness and beauty of life on a coastal island, but few of us ever make the decision made by Thomas Wilson in "The Lotus-Eater" by W. Somerset Maugham. Wilson had decided to take every penny available to him, make it do for a ten-year period, and then commit suicide.

Because he had been a vigorous, active man when he made this decision, Wilson could foresee no difficulty for the future when the time would arrive that his money would have run out and his plan would call for the final step, suicide. But a life of leisurely inactivity on the isle of Capri and the loss of his youthful vigor sapped Wilson's ability to take the final, decisive step. Thus he lingered for a year on the island, without funds and without the resourcefulness to resolve his dilemma.

"The Lotus-Eater" shows rather melodramatically the need for keeping one's mind and body finely turned. A lazy, self-serving life seems enticing to one who is tired of day-to-day responsibility but the kind of life Wilson chose brings its own enervation by erosion of one's natural powers of physical and mental alertness.

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